

pinned to the bed within easy reach of the patient. These should be burned daily. Pasteboard sputum cups should contain $\frac{1}{4}$ inch 5% liquor cresolis comp. and be changed at least daily. Disinfection of stools and urine is unnecessary. For personal prophylaxis, Dr. Sanford Blum of San Francisco urges the use of potassium iodid or syrup of hydriodic acid, in small repeated doses.

Prophylaxis should include sufficient sleep, rest, open air and sunshine. Crowded street cars and indoor gatherings of all sorts must be eschewed. Sneezing or coughing without the face protected by a handkerchief is a sanitary crime. Spitting should be similarly repressed. Gauze masks should be worn in public by all persons where influenza is epidemic.

THE PSYCHOPATHIC HOSPITAL IDEA.

One of the institutions badly needed by California, and especially by the community in and about San Francisco, is a Psychopathic Hospital, and the medical profession as a whole should interest itself in the effort now being made to obtain such.

The functions of such a hospital are many, important among them being, first of all, to serve as a nucleus, about which a rational program for the state care of those with nervous or mental disease or defect, can be built. To be sure, each institution should be a center of psychiatric activity for its own area, but there should be a center of centers, from which should emanate scientific inspiration, and co-ordinate plans as well as trained assistants to supply other institutions. By concentrating certain state-wide functions in such an institution many things can be more adequately and economically accomplished. Furthermore, by being located in the city, it serves as a first line of attack against the problem of disease, thus bringing early and borderline cases to the attention of experts. This is especially true of its Out-patient Department, where large numbers of cases may be seen which would otherwise get to a state hospital too late for benefit. Its social service department would supply a long-felt want. Finally, as an educational center both for students, practitioners and the laity, it is the first move toward rational preventive medicine and mental hygiene.

However, the time has long since passed when it is necessary to enumerate arguments in favor of a Psychopathic Hospital. That one is an absolute necessity is a truism. At present the only argument against its immediate erection is the expense. Surely, a rich, self-conscious state like California will not lag behind and allow this need to continue unmet. The thousands of dollars now spent by courts, social agencies, schools, charitable organizations and hospitals in trying to solve these problems of the psychopathic individuals would more than build and maintain a Psychopathic Hospital.

NEWSPAPERS AND THE DOCTOR.

How the average newspaper does enjoy poking fun at the doctor! And how often it slurs him and his work, and by innuendo and unrefuted misstatement allows him to suffer injustice! Such, doubtless, is to be expected and as a general thing arouses only amusement at the expense of the newspaper. As, for instance a San Francisco paper

recently published an editorial suggesting that much well-intended medical enterprise is misdirected as promoting disease by advertising it. Of course the fallacy of such a statement is self-evident, except, apparently to its sapient author. It is of record that non-medical persons with a prurient regard for medical literature, have died of a misprint. Others, too, assuming the practice when they were ignorant of the theory, have died of a wrong dilution and of taking it internally instead of by inunction of the skin.

Such instances, doubtless, afford the thoughtful editor quoted above, full justification for holding the medical profession entirely to blame. As Dr. Rucker once said, the child dead of whooping cough is just as dead as if he had died of diphtheria. It is a matter of indifference to the tubercle bacillus whether his victim be Eddyite, Christian, Greek or barbarian, gutter-snipe or man of destiny, so long as he finds the soil favorable and his growth unchecked. Not advertising the disease will not eliminate it, as has been amply demonstrated in the past. The deaths above 1 to 10,000 cases of influenza may be due entirely to fear, as certain Eddyites proclaim, but the persons involved are just as dead as if the pathologic lesions of the autopsy table were really responsible for the death.

Why should newspapers disregard the proved facts of science and the tested good judgment and sound desire of the great majority of their readers? Do they imagine that good comes from such specious chatter? Or are they trying to cater to some small clique with a private grudge, and dare not boldly state their true position?

Along with the above might be noted in the same newspaper quoted a half-column squeal from a self-styled physician inveighing against the injustice and chicanery of the State Board of Medical Examiners for having refused him, and many like him, license to practice medicine in California. Of course he neglected to say that the Board of Medical Examiners has as its one function, in law and practice, not the protection and aggrandizement of physicians, but solely the protection and welfare of the public, and is created by and responsible to, that public. Also the aforementioned newspaper, not only printed no suggestion of repudiation of the outrageous indictment brought by this disgruntled black sheep, but apparently concurred in his diatribe, even heading it with large display type.

Some day newspapers of the west will so far value science and its contribution to life, and will so enhance their appreciation of newspaper fact, and will so correctly value the taste, desire and mentality of their readers, that they will imitate certain of the great eastern dailies, which have a well-trained medical staff member to edit their medical and scientific news and editorials.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICE CORPS.

Some misunderstanding has arisen of late regarding the status, function and usefulness of the V. M. S. C. In another column will be found a condensed and complete statement of the re-organized corps. This should be read with attention by every physician not in the army, the navy